

God Looks On The Heart

I Samuel 16:1-23

Introduction:

- (1Sa 16:1-3) God tells Samuel to go and anoint a new king over Israel.
- How long will you mourn for Saul: There is a time to mourn, but there is also a time to move on.
- God will never allow His work to die with the death or failure of a man. If it is God's work, it goes beyond any man. Perhaps Samuel was paralyzed with mourning because of Saul's tragic rebellion, but God was not paralyzed.
- I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite: Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:17, 22).
- V. 3 You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you: The first king of Israel was anointed for the people. He was the "king from central casting," the kind of king the people wanted. Now the "people's choice" failed and disqualified himself. "Now," the Lord said, "It's time for a king for Me." God was going to show Israel His choice for king.

I. GOD DOESN'T CHOOSE THE OLDER SONS

- a. Come with me to the sacrifice: The idea was not that Jesse and his sons were to just watch Samuel sacrifice this heifer. They would watch the sacrifice and then share in a large ceremonial meal, eating the meat that came from the sacrificed animal.
- b. (1Sa 16:6-10) God doesn't choose any of Jesse's older sons.
- c. Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him: As Samuel looked at the oldest son Eliab he thought, "This man sure looks like a king. This must be the one God will tell me to anoint. That's a good choice, God!" Samuel saw a tall, good looking young man who looked like he would be a great king and leader.
- d. Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him: Samuel made the mistake of judging Eliab based on his appearance.

This was the same mistake Israel made about their first king. Saul looked the part but he didn't have the heart a king of God's people should have

- e. V. 7-God looks on the heart- This was a statement of fact, but also a challenge for us to have godly thinking
 - i. Avoids the sad hypocrisy of externalism
 - ii. The typical attractive human qualities is not what makes someone a great leader
 - iii. It is not that outward appearance is unimportant
 - iv. The order of importance is "inside out"
 - v. If our heart is right, our external will be right also!

II. GOD CHOOSES DAVID- V. 11-13

- a. Are all the young men here? Samuel had a problem. God told him of Jesse, I have provided Myself a king among his sons (1 Samuel 16:1). Yet here were the seven sons of Jesse and God did not chose any of them. Since Samuel knew God's word was true he knew there must be another son of Jesse who was not at the sacrificial feast.
- b. There remains the youngest: This shows the low regard David had among his own family. First, his father didn't even mention him by name. Second, he wasn't even invited to the sacrificial feast. Third, he was only called to come because Samuel insisted on it.
- c. V. 12- When people saw David, they though he's a nice looking boy- not a born leader!
- d. V. 12- God often chooses unlikely people to do His work, so that all know the work is God's work, not man's work. He wants to work in a way so that people regard His servants as they regarded Samson: they wondered at the secret of his strength, or the courage of the Apostles (Acts 4:13)
- e. Christ as a man was an unlikely Messiah to most in His day! Even his own brothers and sisters rejected Him at first. I Peter 2:4

- f. David was called for this great anointing when he was out keeping the sheep. David simply did his job and was faithful in small things and what his father told him to do. Illustr- those looking for more responsibility
 - i. During these years, God built in David the heart that would sing about the Lord as his shepherd (as in Psalm 23).
 - ii. David's years keeping the sheep were not waiting time; they were training time. David was a great man and a great king over Israel because he never lost his shepherd's heart. Psalm 78:70-72 speaks of the connection between David the king and David the shepherd
- g. (1Sa 16:12-13) David is chosen and anointed. See I Sam 13:14
- h. Where did David get this heart? Obviously, from time spent with the Lord.
- i. We don't know how old David was at this time. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus says that David was ten years old. Others guess he was about fifteen years old. It's safe to say he was in that range.
- j. "The public anointing was the outcome of what had taken place in private between David and God long before." (Redpath)
- k. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward: The real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David. The oil on the head was just a sign of this inward reality.

III. SAUL CHOOSES DAVID- V. 14-23

- a. A distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him: If God is all-good, why did He send a distressing spirit upon Saul? James 1:13 There are two senses in which God may send something. He may send something in the active sense or He may send something in a passive sense. Actively, God never initiates or performs evil; He is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17). Passively, God may withdraw the hand of His protection and therefore allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself.
- b. We don't have to fear that God will take the Holy Spirit from us (Romans 8:9-11, 15-16, Eph. 4:30)

- c. This was most likely a part of God's judgment the removal of the Spirit-I Sam 10:10
- d. A solution is presented
 - i. Seek out a man who can, using music, bring the love, peace, and power of God to Saul. King Saul needed to be led into worship, so it was important to seek out a man to do the job.
 - ii. God created music and gave it the capability when done biblically to touch people with great power. Music can be used for great good or for great evil, because it is so powerfully communicates to our souls
 - iii. Eph. 5:19, Col 3:16
 - iv. V. 18- qualifications! The best quality- the Lord is with him!
- e. Even Saul recognized what God was doing in David- sadly this partnership would not stay great for long

Conclusion:

- This is the first explicit mention of David- his name means "Beloved" or "Loved One"
- He would become one of the great men in the Bible
- The key was that he had a heart for God! May God give us that same kind of heart!